

Representative Callton and Distinguished Committee Members, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak to you. My name is Dr. Janet Eng. I am a board certified emergency physician by the American Board of Emergency Medicine. I am licensed here in Michigan and practice at McLaren Greater Lansing Emergency Department. I speak in opposition to House Bills 5090-5091.

By way of disclosure, I am an oral board examiner for the American Board of Emergency Medicine, which is a volunteer position. I choose to support this important certification activity because I believe patients, their families, hospitals, and members of the care team must have a way to identify those physicians who are meeting a higher standard for medical specialty care than simply whether or not they have a medical license.

Board Certification by an ABMS Member Board *matters* because it helps the public know that we as board certified physicians, have met a rigorous national standard in order to be certified. We are periodically evaluated to ensure we are staying up to date with the knowledge and skills needed to provide quality care in our specialty. Numerous research studies show that ABMS board certified physicians practice safer, higher quality medicine, and tend to have fewer disciplinary actions by state medical licensing boards.

To the public, Board Certification matters.

It matters because it is not merely a way for physicians to keep current in our area of specialization; it is an external independent assessment of our competencies and medical knowledge. Though Continuing Medical Education— or CME, which is what Michigan requires to maintain a license—serves an important role in facilitating learning, it is not an assessment of a physician's medical knowledge by an external, independent group. Being Board Certified as a physician tells the public that the doctor has made the grade.

And think of it this way... just as the State of Michigan has, in its wisdom, determined that State Licensure must be frequently renewed, so too must the important credential of board certification be periodically renewed.

Through Maintenance of Certification or "MOC", Board Certification becomes a continuous process. For me, MOC has been an effective way to learn new information throughout my career. My MOC requirements are relevant and have helped keep me up to date in my specialty. I am currently preparing for my 10-year MOC examination and find that it has helped reinforce my existing medical knowledge and has also allowed me to learn new things.

I oppose House Bills 5090-5091 because they take away the opportunity for my hospital to independently set its own standards for the quality of the practitioners it chooses to employ. Over time this has the potential to erode my patients' confidence that they are being cared for in a hospital that

places a high premium on quality. And finally, it erodes the trust those patients have that I am staying up to date in my specialty so that I can provide the best care possible to them. These bills would set Michigan apart as adopting *the lowest common standard* by which physicians would practice. Michigan would be set apart as winning the race to the bottom.

If Board Certification and MOC, *by law*, cannot be taken into account, then all physicians would be defined by the lowest common denominator of medical licensure. If I became the Director of an Emergency Department, under this law, I would not be allowed to require Board Certification as a standard for being a member of that Department. These bills would deny me as a physician the right to insist that care be provided at a higher standard than that of merely possessing a medical license in Michigan.

I think it's important to remember that the primary stakeholder in Board Certification is the public. And to the public, knowing that their physicians are being periodically assessed through a comprehensive examination or some other means, matters.

In short, high standards for Board Certification *matters* and we hope you will not prevent it from serving as the useful quality indicator it has for so many decades

Again, I ask that you oppose these bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this morning, and for the work you do on behalf of the citizens of Michigan.